GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ATOMIC ENERGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1432
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2002
SAHA INSTITUTE OF NUCLEAR PHYSICS KOLKATA
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Grade A Helium in liquid and gaseous form is imported mainly from the US;

(b) if so, whether the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics has achieved 99.995 per cent concentration of helium;

(c) whether this break-through means that India may not have to import helium;

(d) whether this technology to liquefy helium will boost cryotechnology involved in health-care, rocket engines and nuclear reactors;

(e) if so, whether the Government will help the scientists of SINP to obtain patent for process developed by them; and

(f) if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINIST OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Scientists of Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics have achieved 99.995% concentration of helium.

(c) Since the available source of helium bearing raw gas from thermal springs is limited, helium is imported.

(d) The present technology referred is to purify helium gas to 99.995% and not to liquefy helium.

(e) & (f) Do not arise.